Downtrend in Indian export

439. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how much is the drop in India's total exports in the last six months as compared to the previous year (month-wise);

(b) how many jobs have been lost as a result thereof; and

(c) what fiscal steps are being taken to arrest this downward trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The details of fall in India's total exports during the last six months as compared to the corresponding months of the previous year is given below:

Month-wise exports during 2008-09

Month	2007-08	2008-09	Growth
	US $ Mill.	US $ Mill.	(%)
December	14625	12690	-13.2
January	14889	12381	-16.8
February	15221	11913	-21.7
March	17254	11516	-33.3

Month-wise exports during 2009-10

Month	2008-09	2009-10	Growth
	US $ Mill.	US $ Mill.	(%)
April	16076	10743	-33.2
May	15550	11010	-29.2

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(b) A sample survey conducted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for 648 exporting units spread over 17 different sectors across the country, primarily employment oriented, revealed job loss (direct and indirect) to the tune of 1,34,593 persons during the period August' 08 to April' 09. This does not reflect the total job losses which would be higher.

(c) The steps taken during 2008-09 to arrest the downward trend in exports, *inter-alia,* include interest subvention of 2 per cent on pre and post shipment credit for labour intensive exports; additional allocation of Rs. 350 crore for export incentive schemes; enhancement of Duty Drawback Benefits on certain items including knitted fabrics, bicycles, agricultural hand tools and specified categories of yarn, provision of additional funds of Rs. 1400 crore for textile sector to clear the backlog claims of Technology Up gradation Fund (TUF) etc.

Impact of foreign farm products on Indian Agriculture

440. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to diltute its stand on market access for foreign farm products just opposite the stand taken by the Government during the last Doha Round of WTO trade talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of impact it is likely to have on Indian agriculture due to foreign food imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The principal aim of India's negotiating strategy in the agriculture negotiations has consistently been to protect the interests of farmers particularly with regard to their food and livelihood security. No change in approach is contemplated.

(c) Does not arise.

Effect of import of palm oil

441. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has allowed the import of palm oil for domestic consumption still on high quantity which has caused serious impact on palm cultivation and allied domestic industries;

(b) if so, whether Government will consider to reduce such huge import of palm oil from other countries and will initiate *adhoc* board for development of palm cultivation and allied small industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The Government has allowed import of edible Oils because the domestic production of edible oils not sufficient to meet the country's demand. About 40% of edible oils requirement is met through imports. Palm oil is the major edible oils imported in the country, which constitutes about 80% of the total imports

(b) to (d) No, Sir. In the absence of imports, domestic availability will be seriously affected which may lead to increase in domestic prices. However, National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Development Board (NOVOD), Directorate of Oilseeds Development, Hyderabad, Oil Palm India Ltd. (OPIL), Kottyam (A Joint Venture of Government of India and Government of Kerala), National Research Centre for Palm Oil of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), etc. are already functioning to take care of the growth of the palm oil sector.

FIEO's help for increasing exports

442. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: